

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE GRAY HERBARIUM OF HARVARD
UNIVERSITY—NO. CXIBOTANICAL RESULTS OF THE GRENFELL-FORBES
NORTHERN LABRADOR EXPEDITION, 1931

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(Plates 408-411)¹

INTRODUCTION

DURING the summer of 1931, Dr. Alexander Forbes of Harvard University led an expedition to the northeastern part of Labrador, primarily to obtain data for an adequate topographic map of the region. In addition to organizing the expedition, Dr. Forbes also acted as navigator of the *Ramah*, the Nova Scotia-built schooner which was the means of transportation of the expedition. In this difficult task he was ably assisted by Mr. F. T. Hogg, architect, as mate. The direction of the actual surveying (primarily by means of aerial photography) was in the hands of Mr. O. M. Miller of the American Geographical Society, who had just devised a method especially adapted to mountainous country of making maps from aerial photographs, which he calls "plane-tabling from the air." The balance of the scientific staff consisted of Mr. Noel Odell, geologist and mountaineer, who was interested in the structural and glacial geology of the region, and myself who represented the Gray Herbarium as the botanist of the expedition.² From the botanical point of view it was considered especially important to investigate the flora at the higher elevations in the Torngat and Kaumajet Mountains because of the current theory that these were not ice-covered during the Wisconsin. It had already been established by Professor Fernald that there is a direct correlation between the presence of "cordilleran" relics and absence of glaciation during the Wisconsin in the more southern nunatak and driftless areas, especially in the Gulf of St. Lawrence region. From earlier collections in northeastern Labrador

¹ The cost of reproduction of the aerial photographs has been met by PROFESSOR ALEXANDER FORBES of the Harvard Medical School, organizer and leader of the Expedition. It is a pleasure to acknowledge his generosity not only in this respect, but in numberless other ways both during and after the return of the expedition.

² At this point should be mentioned the various members of the expedition who provided valuable aid in collecting plants in the field. These were MRS. M. ODELL, MRS. M. C. D. HOGG, MISS K. FORBES, NOEL ODELL, EDWIN D. BROOKS, JR., HOYT PEASE, and BREWSTER MORRIS, to all of whom I express my thanks.